

SETTING UP A CONFERENCE TABLE

PLACE

Agree upon an area in which daily conferences can be held without interruption. Choose a table, preferably one that is not used frequently for other purposes. Hold all conferences there. If problems arise somewhere else, whenever possible, wait until you reach home to discuss them - at the conference table, of course. The first week, read Ephesians 4:17-32 each night before conferring.

Place: _____

Time: _____

PURPOSE

The conference table is for conferencing, not for arguing. Begin by talking about yourself - your sins and failures - and settle all such matters first by asking forgiveness. Ask for help, too (see Matthew 7:4-5).

Speak all the truth in love. Do not allow any concern to be carried over into the next day. Not all problems can be solved in one sitting. You may find it necessary to draft an agenda and schedule the work over time, according to priorities. Direct all your energies toward defeating the problem, not toward the other person. Your goal is to reach biblical solutions, so always have Bibles on the table and use them. It helps, too, to record the results of your work on paper. Open and close conferences with prayer. When you need help, reread Ephesians 4:25-32.

PROCEDURES

If any participant argues, "clams up", or does anything other than confer at the table, the others must rise and stand quietly. This prearranged signal means, "In my opinion, we've stopped conferring." Whether the person was right or wrong in this judgment does not matter and ought not to be discussed at the moment. The person who is still seated should then indicate his willingness to confer and invite the others to reseal themselves.